

and second fingers, which, in the present species are equal in length, whilst in *B. boreas* the first is longer than the second. The membranes uniting the toes are more deeply emarginate in *B. columbiensis*, and in which also the sole of the foot is granular instead of being smooth.

August 16th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A communication was read from the Royal Bavarian Academy, dated Munich, 6th Nov., 1853, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, vol. 5, Nos. 9—12; vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2; and Journal, new series, part 2 of vol. 2; and requesting certain Nos. of the Proceedings deficient in their series; also transmitting their publications announced this evening.

Mr. Girard presented two communications by Prof. Baird and himself, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Descriptions of Fishes collected by Captains R. B. Marcy and George Mc'Clellan, in Arkansas," and "Descriptions of new species of Fishes, collected by Mr. John H. Clarke, on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, under Lieut.-Col. James D. Graham;" both of which were referred to Mr. Cassin, Dr. Ruschenberger and Dr. Hallowell.

The following communication was read from Dr. D. D. Owen, dated New Harmony, Ind., August 1, 1852:

"After submitting my paper read before the Academy of Natural Sciences, and printed in the Journal, 2d series, vol. 2, pl. 2, Jan. 1853, on a supposed new earth, or a modification of a new one, I supplied Dr. Genth with a portion of the mineral, with a request that he would examine it, and let me know the result.

Dr. Girard had no time during my stay in Philadelphia to enter fully into the investigation, but since my return to the west he addressed a letter to me on the subject, which reached this place during my absence from home, which I left on the 15th of June last, and did not return until lately, when the letter was received.

I beg leave now to submit the result of his conclusions in regard to it, which are very likely correct, though some of the reactions which I obtained require further investigation, which I propose to undertake when the work I am now engaged on shall have been completed.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Genth to Dr. D. D. Owen:

"I have just completed the experiments with your thalia, and have come to the conclusion that it is nothing but magnesia. Magnesia shows sometimes such a strange behaviour with reagents, that one is inclined to think it a new earth. I had the same case with my analysis of Kämmerite (Rhodophyllite.) It is possible that the relations which exist in the mineral had not been destroyed, and that you have a solution of the mineral, for instance, a solution of aluminate of magnesia. I separated both with acet. of potash, and free acet. acid and carb. of baryta. The only strange reaction was, that it fell down with  $\text{NH}_4\text{O}$  in presence of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , but I find it now in all the magnesian minerals which I examine in a similar manner.

From the oxalate of your thalia I prepared the pure earth. With cobalt solution before the blowpipe gave it a flesh-colored mass. Dissolved readily in very dilute acid, and gave no precipitate with ammonia, in presence of chloride of ammonium, and all the reactions of magnesia. The sulphate gave with sulphate of ammonia the well known double salt in oblique rhombic prisms. The

pure sulphate with seven equivalents of water crystallized right rhombic, and had the form, appearance, taste, and gave all the reactions of epsom salt. It gave me 50.8 per cent. of water, and 35.5 per cent. of sulphuric acid, which also prove that I had sulphate of magnesia. The analysis of the mineral is, according to J. L. Smith:

	H	Si	Al	Fe	Ca	Mg	K.
J. L. Smith, . .	20.66	45.66	4.87	2.09	3.07	22.10	0.15—98.45
E. Reakirt, . .	19.96	44.07	4.72	1.70*	3.75	21.49	not det.
P. Keyser,		44.66	7.79		26.60		K Na 0.12 0.16

According to these analyses the mineral is Saponite.

As the original communication appeared in your Journal, I think it proper to forward the above."

Mr. Girard exhibited colored drawings of two species of the genus *Salmo*, referring one to *S. erythrogaster*, De Kay, and the other he considers as undescribed.

"Its large scales and fusiform body would undoubtedly recall to mind the salmon, but on a more close examination the general shape and outline are far more elegant than in the salmon, preserving altogether better proportions between the different regions of the body. The head forms about a fourth of the entire length, whilst in the salmon it is about the sixth only. The eyes are of medium size, and subcircular in shape, their diameter being contained about seven times in the length of the head. The posterior half of the maxillary which is regularly and most decidedly curved downwards, gives to the shape of the mouth quite a peculiar aspect. The anterior margin of the dorsal fin is equidistant between the tip of the snout and the base of the caudal. The posterior margin of the latter is regularly crescent-shaped. The adipose is elongated, club-shaped, and situated opposite the posterior half of the anal. The ventrals are inserted under the middle of the dorsal, somewhat nearer the anal than the pectorals. The scales are remarkably large, contrasting greatly when compared to those of *S. erythrogaster*, *S. fontinalis*, and *S. namaycush*, or *amethystus*. There are about a hundred and fifteen of them in the lateral line.

The color in the female is uniform silvery grey, darker on the back and head. Subquadrangular or subcircular black spots are observed upon the sides of the head, behind the eyes, along the back, and the half of the flanks, also on the dorsal and caudal fins, to nearly their edge. In the male these same colors exist, but spread all over with a reddish tint, more intense on the flanks and beneath than upon the head, back, and dorsal and caudal fins, where the red is sometimes but faintly indicated. The name of *Salmo selago* is proposed for this species, which inhabits the southern part of the State of Maine.

Mr. Girard, referring to a communication made to the Academy some weeks since by Prof. Agassiz, on the subject of Crawfishes, remarked:

Previous to the publication of his "Revision of the North American Astaci," &c., he was well acquainted with the fact that the genus *Astacus proper*, as now understood by Prof. A., was represented in North America. He further knew that this fact was demonstrated by Prof. J. D. Dana, in a paper published pp. 10—28, of vol. vi. (Jan. 1852), of the Proceedings of the Academy, and that consequently Prof. Agassiz had no claim upon that discovery.

As to the circumstance that *Cambarus Gambelii* may be referred to *Astacus* on the ground of having eighteen branchiæ instead of seventeen, Mr. G. said he was

\* The sesquioxide of iron and alumina contain a trace of Silica, which was not separated.

not satisfied that this fact was of a generic value, and consequently described the species as a *Cambarus* with the same propriety as he might have placed it in the genus *Astacus*.

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August 23d.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Librarian of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Amsterdam, dated 27th July, 1853, asking for certain volumes and numbers of the Proceedings, to complete their series.

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August 30th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Committee on Dr. Hoy's continuation of his paper on the Ornithology of Wisconsin, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

*Notes on the Ornithology of Wisconsin.*

By P. R. HOY, M. D., of Racine, Wisconsin.

[Continued from page 313.]

CERTHIADÆ, (5 species.)

\* *CERTHIA AMERICANA*, Bonap.  
Common throughout the year.

\* *SITTA CAROLINENSIS*, Linn.  
Common, remains during the winter.

\* *SITTA CANADENSIS*, Linn.  
This species does not remain with us during winter. A few nest near Racine, a greater number in the pine regions in the northern part of the State.

\* *PARUS ATRICAPILLUS*, Linn.  
Abundant, remain during winter.

*PARUS HUDSONICUS*, Lath.

A small party of this northern species visited Racine during the unusually cold January of 1852.

AMPELIDÆ, (2 species.)

*BOMBYCILLA GARRULA*, Vieill.

Arrives in large parties from the first to the last of November, and leaves by the 15th April. The first arrivals are all young birds, destitute of the yellow markings on the wing, and with less of the wax-like appendages. These young birds generally proceed further south to winter, while the old birds, in perfect plumage, arrive later, and seldom, if ever, go further. I never have seen an individual entirely destitute of the wax ornaments. The only perceptible difference between the sexes is in size, the females being slightly the larger. In fifty specimens accurately measured, the average was :

Females,	. . . . .	85-12—14½.
Males,	. . . . .	82-12—13½.

They are unsuspecting, permitting a near approach. Their fare consists of a variety of berries, but those of the mountain ash, (*Pyrus Americana*), appear to be preferred to all others. They are frequently seen to eat snow as a substitute for drink.